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SENSITIVE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADD SENSITIVE CAPTION)

FOR NEA/ELA AND S/CT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: JORDAN COURT OVERTURNS FOLEY KILLING CONSPIRATOR  
SENTENCE, REFERS CASE BACK TO SECURITY COURT

REF: 04 AMMAN 6212

[11](#). (U) Jordan's al-Dustour newspaper reported on May 13 that the Court of Cassation - Jordan's Supreme Court - has overturned the 10-year sentence of Muammar Ahmad Yusuf al-Jaghbir, who had been convicted for his role in the 2002 murder of USAID official Laurence Foley in Amman. According to the article, the Court referred the case back to the State Security Court (SSC).

[12](#). (U) Jaghbir had been accused of helping form the cell that killed Foley, and of facilitating communications and money flows between the cell and Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi. The 10-year sentence was itself the product of a November 28, 2007 sentence reduction by the State Security Court (SSC). Jaghbir was originally sentenced to death in absentia in April 2004. Note: When the 2004 verdict was originally announced - in July that year - the GOJ also noted that Jaghbir had been captured by Coalition forces in Iraq and turned over to Jordan. As stipulated by Jordanian law, a retrial was mandated once he was returned to Jordan (ref A). End Note. According to the Jordan Times report in November 2007, the SSC had decided to amend the original charge of "plotting subversive acts that led to the death of an individual" to "plotting terrorist attacks," and subsequently reduced his original sentence. The 10-year sentence was referred for review to the Court of Cassation, a process that ended with the latest decision.

[13](#). (SBU) A contact at the State Security Court, Major Ramzi Nuzha, said he had not seen the latest details on the case, but pointed out that SSC sentences are subject to review by the Cassation Court, which has the authority to refer a case back to the court of origin (in this case the SSC) with instructions on "what they did wrong." Press reporting to date provides no details about what was "wrong."

[14](#). (SBU) Suggested guidance:

- We have seen the reports.
- We understand that Jordan's supreme court has sent the case back to the trial court for review, and we are seeking additional details about the current legal process.
- We would refer you to the Government of Jordan for further information on the Jordanian legal system and the status of this case.

HALE